

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06215 220955Z

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7112

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6215

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, OTRA, TW, CH

SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON TAIWAN DURING LAST QUARTER
OF CALENDAR 1975: FLAG OFFICER VISITS

1. WE ARE IN PROCESS REVIEWING MILITARY EXERCISES AND VISITS TO TAIWAN DURING PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD AND WILL BE ADVISING DEPARTMENT ASAP. AS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE FROM OSD/ISA THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GENERAL/FLAG OFFICER VISITS SCHEDULED DURING FOURTH QUARTER OF CY 1975. TWO VISITS IN PARTICULAR DURING THIS PERIOD WHICH DO NOT NEED OSD/ISA APPROVAL SHOULD NOW BE REVIEWED PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT ANY INFORMATION TO WHICH EMBASSY MAY NOT BE PRIVY. BECAUSE OF THE SHORT LEAD TIMES AND FACT THAT ADVANCE PLANNING IS UNDERWAY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT CONSULTING ASAP WITH DOD CONCERNING VISITS BY SEVENTH FLEET COMMANDER AND COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE.

2. REAR ADMIRAL DONALD B. WHITMIRE, COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 7TH FLEET, AND CTF 76 IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT KEELUNG ON BOARD HIS FLAGSHIP THE USS DENVER (LPD-9) OCT. 9-13. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS VISIT LOCALLY AND BELIEVE THAT UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS OVERRIDING REASONS, IT SHOULD NOT BE CANCELED AT THIS TIME. ADMIRAL WHITMIRE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN ANY PARTICIPATION IN DOUBLE TEN ACTIVITIES AND EXCEPT FOR TIMING VISIT IS ROUTINE PORT CALL BY A SEVENTH FLEET TASK FORCE COMMANDER.

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3. VICE ADMIRAL HAYWARD, COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET, IS

SCHEDULED TO MAKE HIS INITIAL VISIT SINCE TAKING COMMAND OF THE SEVENTH FLEET TO TAIPEI NOVEMBER 4 TO 7 ABOARD HIS FLAG-SHIP THE OKLAHOMA CITY (CG-5). THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED ADMIRAL HAYWARD TO CONSIDER AN EARLIER VISIT--PERHAPS FLYING IN--IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO THE MAINLAND. ADMIRAL HAYWARD REPLIED THAT BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, NOVEMBER 4 TO 7 IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE TIME TO BRING HIS COMMAND SHIP TO TAIWAN AND THAT OTHER COMMITMENTS RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FLYING TO TAIPEI EARLIER THAN THE SCHEDULED PORT VISIT. UNLESS AT THAT TIME VISIT LIKELY DETRACT FROM OR COMPLICATE US/PRC ACTIVITIES IN THAT PERIOD WE WOULD HOPE ADM. HAYWARD COULD PROCEED WITH HIS PLANS.

4. IN BOTH CASES THE GROC IS ALREADY AWARE OF PLANNED VISITS AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADVISE THEM OF ANY CHANGE OF PLANS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
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